



U.S. Department of Justice

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BELVIDERE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL ARSON CHARGE

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; ANDREW L. TRAVER, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, & Explosives; ROBERT D. GRANT, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and D. WILLIAM ROBERTSON, Chief of the City of Rockford Fire Department, today made the following announcement:

JEFF BARTLETT, age 43, Caledonia, Illinois, pleaded guilty in federal court today for arranging for others to burn down a business located at 4606 East State Street, Rockford, Illinois, on July 22, 2000.

In pleading guilty, Bartlett admitted that in July 2000 he had an ongoing feud with a family member who opened a business to compete with Bartlett's business. Bartlett eventually hired two men to burn down the competing business. On the night of July 22, 2000, the two men hired by Bartlett constructed an incendiary device and drove to a location in northeast Rockford. One of these men approached the business at 4606 East State Street, Rockford, Illinois and broke out a first floor, rear window. He ignited the device and threw it inside the business. This started a fire inside and caused more than \$60,000 in damage to the business.

Sentencing for Bartlett will be conducted on July 28, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. Bartlett faces a possible maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a fine of up to \$250,000, up to 3 years of supervised release following imprisonment, and full restitution. The actual sentence will be determined by the United States District Court, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The case was investigated by the Rockford office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Rockford Fire Department, with the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Mark Karner.

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